

TAB

EXECUTIVE OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT
COUNCIL ON ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY

722 JACKSON PLACE, N. W.
WASHINGTON, D. C. 20006

AUG 21 1972

Mr. John F. Blake
Director of Logistics
Central Intelligence Agency
Washington, D. C. 20505

Dear Mr. Blake:

We received your letter of July 19, 1972, forwarding a copy of procedures for implementing section 102(2) (c) of the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969, 42 U.S.C. §§4321-47. We have the following comments:

- (1) The procedures do not clearly outline the distinction between draft and final statements as contained in the CEQ guidelines. Under those guidelines, ten copies of the draft statement are to be sent to the Council simultaneously with distribution for comment to relevant State and local agencies and the public. A minimum of 30 days is to be allowed for agency comment (45 days for EPA) followed by preparation of a final statement which is also sent to the Council. The minimum period for agency review and advance availability of environmental statements is set forth in section 10(b) of the CEQ guidelines. Agency action should not take place sooner than 90 days after a draft environmental statement has been transmitted to the Council nor sooner than 30 days after a final statement has been made available to the Council and the public. We suggest that your procedures incorporate these and similar provisions of the Council's guidelines.

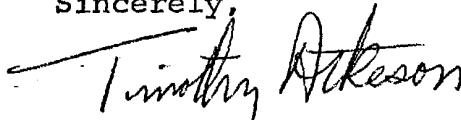
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- (2) Enclosed is a copy of a memorandum recently distributed by the Council to all Federal agencies with recommendations for improving agency NEPA procedures. We suggest that you review this memorandum and incorporate, as relevant, those recommendations not already reflected in your proposed procedures.
- (3) We are proposing to publish within the next few weeks an updated list of all agency NEPA procedures. We urge you to revise these procedures along the lines indicated as soon as possible so that we may include your agency among those that have published NEPA procedures.

If you have any questions, please contact me or Philip Soper (382-6867) of my staff.

Sincerely,



Timothy Atkeson
General Counsel

Enclosure